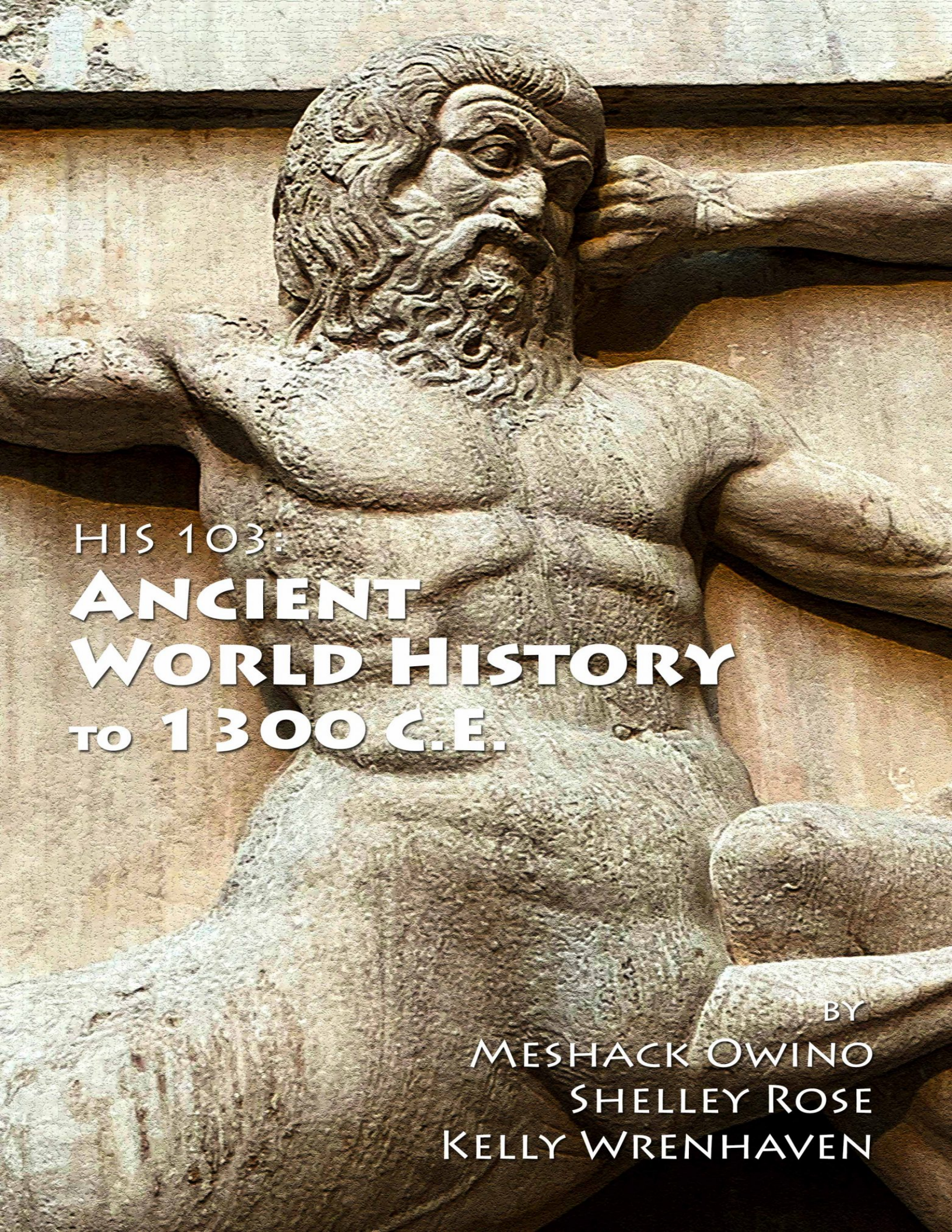


HIS 103:
Ancient World History to 1300 C.E.

BY
Meshack Owino
Shelley Rose
Kelly Wrenhaven

HIS 103: Ancient World History to 1300 C.E.

Meshack Owino, Shelley Rose, and Kelly Wrenhaven

MSL Academic Endeavors

CLEVELAND



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Contents

Introduction

Theme 1: Africa

Week 1: Prehistoric Africa: Human Origins, Migration, and Settlement of the African Continent

Week 2: Ancient Egypt: Civilization, Neolithic Revolution, and Impact

Week 3: Ancient Nubia: Civilization, Neolithic Revolution, Iron-working, Impact

Week 4: Ancient Aksum [Axum]: Civilization, Christianity, and Impact

Week 5: The Mali Empire: Origin, Nature, and Impact

Theme 2: Asia & Americas

Week 6: Early Civilizations: Mesopotamia & Indus

Shelley Rose

Week 7: The Axial Age in Asia

Shelley Rose

Week 8: Southwest Asia & Islam

Shelley Rose

Week 9: The Silk "Road"

Shelley Rose

Week 10: The Americas

Shelley Rose

Theme 3: Europe

Week 11: Prehistoric Europe: Mediterranean and Nordic Bronze Ages

Kelly Wrenhaven

Week 12: Ancient Greece: rise of the polis

Kelly Wrenhaven

Week 13: The Rise of Rome: From kings to senators

From Kings to Senators

Kelly Wrenhaven

Weeks 14-15: The Early Middle Ages and the Rise of Christianity

Kelly Wrenhaven

Appendix

Ancient World History

HIS 103: ANCIENT WORLD HISTORY TO 1300 C.E.
OPEN ACCESS TEXTBOOK


Image 1


Image 2

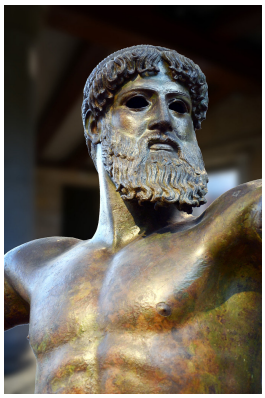

Image 3


Image 4

This course is divided into three five-week sections and each section will be taught by a different member of the History Department. The course explores the history of the world from pre-historic times to 1300 C.E., paying specific attention to the interconnections (or disconnections) between peoples and regions. Students are encouraged to think beyond their experiences with western civilizations to recognize the widespread impact of historical events and trends, including how they helped shape the world today. Touching upon each world region, we will investigate the impact of environment, economics, politics, and religion on diverse societies. Key topics are sites of change and integration such as the rise of cities, religion, technology, migration and trade, the spread of disease, gender relationships, warfare and social movements. Students will learn to develop their own analytical arguments and interpret written, oral, and material sources over the course of the semester.

This course covers four **geographical areas**: Africa, Asia & Americas, and Europe. Each area will address five main categories of analysis:

1. Society & Daily Life
2. Religion

3. Economics & Trade
4. Politics & Governance
5. Military & Conflict

The course textbook is Open Access and is organized according to geographical area. Each area is divided into weekly topics. The weekly topics include links to the readings and/or other media required for that week. Please make sure that you keep up each week and come to class prepared. The lectures will include material from the textbook and other sources, so it is essential that you complete the textbook assignments *and* attend class. Also, make sure to familiarize yourself with the course Blackboard page. There you will find the syllabus, course content, assignments, and other important information. You may read through the textbook at your leisure, however, each week the Blackboard course page will include links to the material assigned for that week (see Course Content > Region folders > weekly folders).

As an introduction, you should begin by reading:

History: A Very Short Introduction (John H. Arnold, OUP)

Off Campus Link

(See a full list of Open Access resources accessible via the CSU Library; and CSU research databases)

Image 1 reference

Image 2 reference

Image 3 reference

Image 4 reference

Theme 1: Africa

Week 1: Prehistoric Africa: Human Origins, Migration, and Settlement of the African Continent



Go to the Blackboard for questions to guide class readings/activities on this topic

Read: Chris Gosden, PreHistory: A Very Short Introduction (OUP, 2018). Our focus will be mainly Chapter 3

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Off campus link

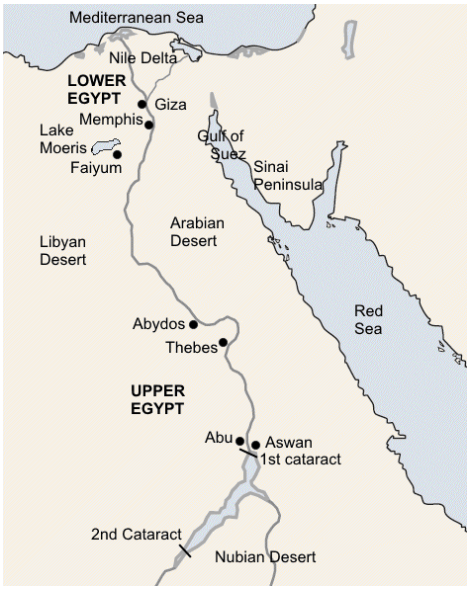
https://www.veryshortintroductions.com/view/10.1093/actrade/9780198803515.001.0001/actrade-9780198803515-chapter-3

Off campus link

Watch:

- Our Earliest Ancestors https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlYjt_9hLsk
- The Origins of Genus Homo https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=zq6kgV1eoj4

Week 2: Ancient Egypt: Civilization, Neolithic Revolution, and Impact



Go to the Blackboard for questions to guide class readings/activities on this topic

Read: Ian shaw, Ancient Egypt: A Very short Introduction (OUP, 2004), https://www.veryshortintroductions.com/view/10.1093/actrade/9780192854193.001.0001/actrade-9780192854193

Off Campus Link

Watch:

- Palette of Narmer—The Conquering King https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSCoQ1im3vY
- History of Ancient Egyptian Civilization https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssu_OWQN6yw
- Turning Papyrus Plant into Paper https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpMmaBw5ZLU

Week 3: Ancient Nubia: Civilization, Neolithic Revolution, Iron-working, Impact



Go to the Blackboard for questions to guide class readings/activities on this topic

Watch: Lost Kingdoms of Africa: Nubia https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mpz8h_MFkWg

Week 4: Ancient Aksum [Axum]: Civilization, Christianity, and Impact





Go to the Blackboard for questions to guide class readings/activities on this topic

Read Eivind Heldaas Seland' article, "Early Christianity in East Africa and Red Sea/Indian Ocean Commerce," *African Archaeological Review*,

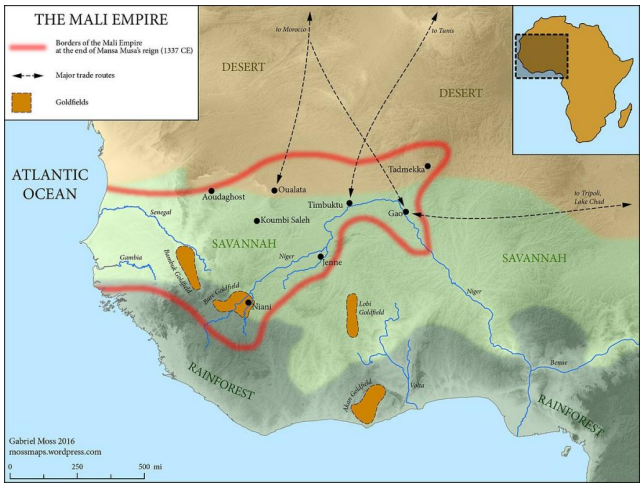
December 2014, Volume 31, Issue 4, pp 637–647https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10437-014-9172-5

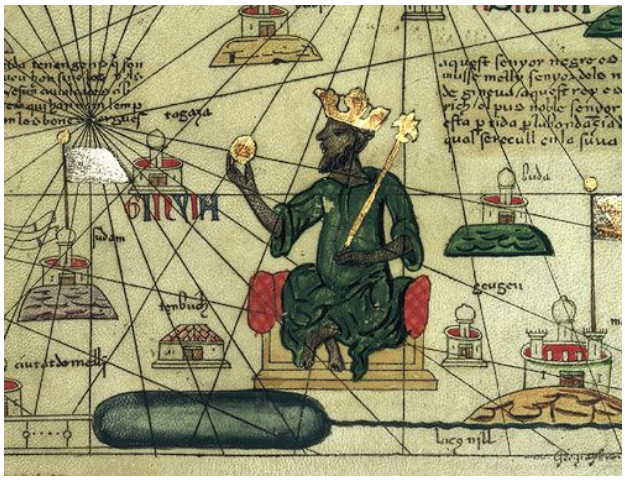
Watch:

- Faces of Africa: Keepers of the Ark: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gDEXmyoC_Q
- Aksum: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3G5ZklLkm0

Week 5: The Mali Empire: Origin, Nature, and Impact







Go to the Blackboard for questions to guide class readings/activities on this topic

Read: D.T. Niane, Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali (Pearson, Revised Edition, 2006)

Theme 2: Asia & Americas

Week 6: Early Civilizations: Mesopotamia & Indus

SHELLEY ROSE

Overview:

Societies in ancient Asia did not develop in isolation, they interacted with nomadic groups and along trade routes. Indeed, artifacts and documents created by settlers in the Indus River Valley, the Phoenicians, and the peoples of Mesopotamia (see the BBC Objects below) all suggest rich connections between groups in ancient Asia. Where societies are more isolated, as in the case of the Jomon Pot and Japan, it is often because the physical geography limited access to them in the ancient world.

Objectives:

After completing this chapter, you will be able to:

- Identify and apply the key steps of historical thinking
- Analyze the conceptual framework of world history narratives.
- Identify and analyze primary and secondary sources
- Evaluate interactions between ancient societies in Asia
- Understand the relevance of physical geography to the formation of early societies

Section 1: Context

Read: The Ancient Near East: A Very Short Introduction, Tarini Carr, “The Harappan Civilization”, Metropolitian Museum of Art, “The Phoenicians (1500-300 B.C.E.)”



Section 2: Primary Sources

Listen: *BBC History of the World in 100 Objects*, "Flood Tablet,""Indus Seals," "Jomon Pot" (You may also read the transcript if you are unable to listen to the podcasts)

Epic of Gilgamesh links & resources:

N.K. Sandars, trans. *Epic of Gilgamesh*. The Internet Archive.

Joshua Mark, "Gilgamesh," *Ancient History Encyclopedia*.

Week 7: The Axial Age in Asia

SHELLEY ROSE

Overview:

Historian Robert Marks argues historical “conjuncture” occurs when “several independent developments come together in ways that interact with one another.” (1) The Axial Age in world history, a term coined by German philosopher Karl Jaspers, is one example of Marks’ concept. The Axial Age is typically described as the period between 800-200 B.C.E. during which key philosophers and thinkers, such as Confucius, appeared in various world societies without any explicit connection between each other. This chapter focuses historians’ use of the term Axial Age as part of the historiography of the ancient world and encourages students to think about world history narratives as interpretations of the past.

Notes:

1. Robert Marks, *Origins of the Modern World* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015), 12.

Objectives:

After completing this chapter, you will be able to:

- Identify and apply the key steps of historical thinking
- Define periodization and historiography
- Evaluate periodization in world history narratives.
- Define the Axial Age in world history
- Describe the origins and context of Hinduism and Confucianism.

Section 1: Context

View: Resources from Asia for Educators on the Axial Age and Confucianism:

Robert Oxnam, "China and the Axial Age"'

Irene Bloom "The Axial Age in the Ancient World "

Asia for Educators, "The Confucian Tradition"

Background: Heilbronn Timeline of Art History, "Timeline of Chinese Dynasties," Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Week 8: Southwest Asia & Islam

SHELLEY ROSE

Overview:

Southwest Asia (also known as the Middle East) is not only known in the ancient world for early Mesopotamian societies studied in Week 6. Over time, cities like Baghdad, Mecca, and Damascus become key entrepot cities, entwined with global trade networks that cross Southwest Asia and facilitate contact between Europe, Africa, and Asia. This chapter focuses on the origins, development, and spread of Islam in the ancient world and its impact on human mobility.

Objectives:

After completing this chapter, you will be able to:

- Identify and apply the key steps of historical thinking
- Demonstrate knowledge of the primary sources and historical development of Islam
- Understand the historical context of the geographic region “Southwest Asia”
- Describe economic and social developments in the region

Section 1: Context

Read: MacCaulay-Lewis, Introduction to Islam, Five Pillars of Islam



Listen: 15 Minute History, "The Succession to Muhammad," "Islam's Enigmatic Origins,"

Further Background Reading: Adam Silverstein, *Islamic History: A Very Short Introduction*

Week 9: The Silk "Road"

SHELLEY ROSE

Overview:

Ferdinand von Richthofen coined the term “Silk Road” in 1887, yet it is a misleading name for what is truly a network of trade routes across central Asia. This network of trade routes can also include maritime trading lanes in the Indian Ocean, according to historians such a Xinru Liu. This chapter explores the development of empires and kingdoms along the trade routes of the “Silk Road” as well as the dynamic exchange of goods, ideas, and diseases fostered by these connections.

Objectives:

After completing this chapter, you will be able to:

- Identify and apply the key steps of historical thinking
- Demonstrate knowledge of the primary sources and historical development of the Silk Road
- Understand the historical context of the Silk Road
- Identify and analyze the territorial empires that developed around the trade routes
- Evaluate the differences and similarities between Buddhism in South Asia and the practice of Buddhism along the “Silk Road.”

Section 1: Context

Read: Millward, *The Silk Road: A Very Short Introduction* Chapter 1. Asia Society, "Geographic Setting of the Silk Roads", "Silk Road: Spreading Ideas and Innovations," "Belief Systems along the Silk Road"

Primary Sources: The Silk Road: Trade, Travel, War and Faith and Buddhism on the Silk Road

Further Background: Asia for Educators Special Topic Guide: Silk Road

Week 10: The Americas

SHELLEY ROSE

Overview:

This chapter focuses on pre-contact Americas and three Mesoamerican societies in particular: the Olmecs, Maya, and Aztecs. As you read and listen to the sources below, think about the critical role geography plays in the development of ancient societies. How is the development of social hierarchy, language, and religion similar to other societies we have studied? How is it different?

Objectives:

After completing this chapter, you will be able to:

- Identify and apply the key steps of historical thinking
- Describe key societies of the Americas before 1492
- Understand social and cultural developments in the Americas in the context of ancient world history

Section 1: Context



Listen: Steve Tulowiecki, “1491 meets 2001,” *15 Minute History*, “PreColumbian Civilizations of Mesoamerica”, BBC History of the World in 100 Objects, ” Maya Maize God Statue”

Primary Sources: Library of Congress, “Pre-Contact America,” *Exploring Early Americas*

Theme 3: Europe





Since this section on Europe covers a large geographical area, the five categories of analysis will be addressed by region in the module topics. The topics are prehistoric Europe, ancient Greece, ancient Rome, and Christianity in Europe.

Week 11: Prehistoric Europe: Mediterranean and Nordic Bronze Ages

KELLY WRENHAVEN







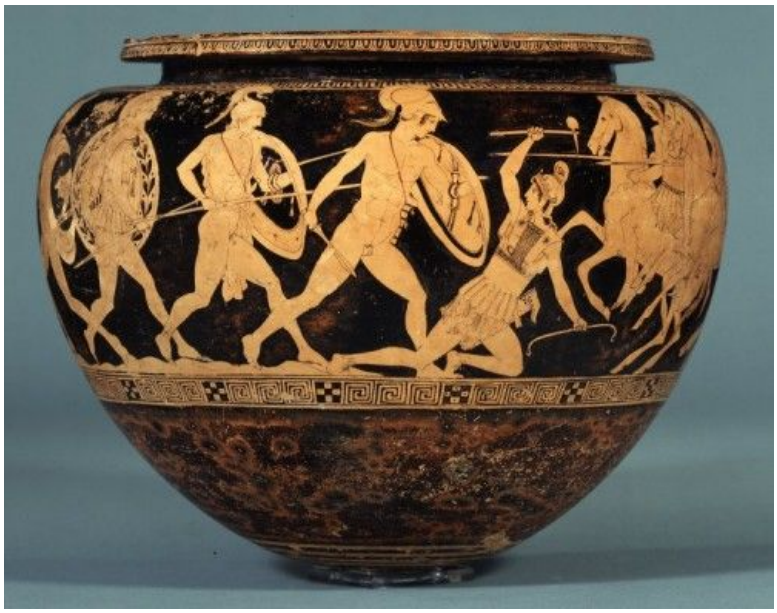
This week you will be introduced to prehistoric Late Bronze Age Europe (c. 1650 BCE – c. 1200 BCE). You will also learn about the legend of the Trojan War as told by the Greek poet Homer. The first part of the week will focus on the great Mediterranean civilizations that today we call the Minoans and the Mycenaeans. The Minoans were centered mainly upon the island of Crete. These were a non-Greek, and probably a non-European, people who likely originated from somewhere in the Levant (the area of modern-day Syria, Turkey, and Lebanon). The Mycenaeans were a Greek (European) people who lived primarily on the mainland of Greece, although they did eventually overtake Minoan strongholds on the island of Crete. The legend of the Trojan War perhaps preserves some memory of the warlike Mycenaean civilization, whose time the Greeks conceived of as the age of heroes.

- Read: Ancient Greece: A Very Short Introduction (P. Cartledge, OUP) Chapters 2 and 3
- Read: The Trojan War: A Very Short Introduction (E. Cline, OUP)

- Read: Homer: A Very Short Introduction (B. Graziosi, OUP). Focus on the Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6
- Watch: The Nordic Bronze Age (History Time, YouTube)

Week 12: Ancient Greece: rise of the polis

KELLY WRENHAVEN



This week you will learn about ancient Greek history, society, religion, politics, and warfare. Since there is so much to learn but so little time, we will restrict this week to major themes:

- Cities, politics, and trade: Athens and Sparta
- Warfare: Persian and Peloponnesian Wars
- Greek Religion



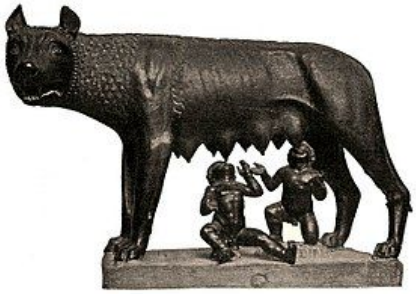
In order to prepare for this week, you should read the following secondary sources:

- Read: Ancient Greece: A Very Short Introduction (P. Cartledge, OUP) Chapters 1, 7, and 8
- Read: Herodotus: A Very Short Introduction (J. T. Roberts, OUP), Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, and 3
- Read: Classical Mythology: A Very Short Introduction (H. Morales, OUP), Introduction and Chapters 1 and 3
- Further information:
- Listen to Prof. Donald Kagan: Rise of the Greek Polis (city)
- Listen to Prof. Donald Kagan: Rise of the Polis (continued)

Week 13: The Rise of Rome: From kings to senators

From Kings to Senators

KELLY WRENHAVEN





This week you will learn about ancient Etruscan and Roman history, society, politics, and warfare. Since there is so much to learn but so little time, we will restrict this week to major themes:

- The Etruscans and their influence upon the early Romans
- The rise and fall of the Roman Republic
- The Punic Wars

To prepare, you should read the following secondary sources:

- Etruscans: A Very Short Introduction (C. Smith, OUP), Introduction and Chapters 1, 4, 5, 7, and 9
- The Roman Republic: A Very Short Introduction (David M. Gwynn, OUP), Chapters 1, 2, 4,6, and 8

Weeks 14-15: The Early Middle Ages and the Rise of Christianity

KELLY WRENHAVEN





- Read: Christianity: A Very Short Introduction (2nd ed., Linda Woodhead, OUP)
- Read: The Middle Ages: A Very Short Introduction (Miri Rubin, OUP)
- Video: City of Man, City of God (Melanie Archer, Producer, 2010. In Ancient Worlds. 6. London, England: BBC)

This is where you can add appendices or other back matter.